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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

DESIRE, GREGORY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/731,724

Applicant(s)

MICHIE ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory M. Desire

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 12, 13 and 15-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-11 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 12, 15-17, 20-21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno in view of Maniwa (5,764,866).

Regarding apparatus and method claims 1 and 15 Kanno discloses,

First managing means for generating first management information (note fig. 2 block 97a in connection with col. 10 lines 10-15 and 41-45) (image combination processing section generates management information by determining combination mode) used to manage the image data, which are stored in said image storing means, on a single unit image basis (note fig. 4 in connection with col. 10 lines 60-66). The synthesizing of data, combining plurality of pages onto a single page stored in an image storing means, performs this on a single unit image basis.

Second managing means for generating second management data used to manage one or more unit images (note fig. 2 block 97 in connection with col. 10 lines 35-36). Page memory control section generates management data used manage one or more unit images. Copier producing normal copies creates one or more unit images. Kanno fails to explicitly disclose the unit images as a single image file. However, Maniwa discloses transferring of an image to an image file (note fig. 6 block 131 and

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col. 15 lines 18-25). Lines cite storing image sheets to image files. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to teach unit images as single file in the system of Kanno as disclosed by Maniwa. Kanno discloses taking unit images and combining in one sheet. Maniwa in the same field of endeavor can take an image such as plurality of combined images and store it as an image file. Maniwa's system reduces workload of the machine (note col. 2 lines 36-37).

Regarding apparatus and method claims 2 and 16 Kanno and Maniwa discloses,

Image data are specified by said first management information on a single unit basis (note fig. 21b shows image data specified by said first management information a single unit basis) out of the image file specified by said second management information (note Kanno, fig. 21a shows the image file specified by said second management information).

Regarding apparatus and method claims 12 and 20 Kanno and Maniwa discloses,

Wherein said first management information and said second management information are stored in the image storing means in relation to the image data (note Kanno, fig. 2 block 98a and 98b in connection with col. 10 lines 46-65).

Regarding method claims 17, 21 and 26 Kanno and Maniwa discloses,

Wherein said method is stored in a computer program to be executed by said computer (note Kanno col. 10 lines 1-3, Rom stores the control program)

3. Claims 13, 18-19, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno and Maniwa in view of Murata (6,606,161).

Regarding apparatus and method claims 13, 18, 22 and 24

Kanno and Maniwa is silent disclosing, wherein the image storing means comprises a storing medium removably mounted to said apparatus. However, Murata teaches image-storing means comprises a storing medium removably mounted to said apparatus. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to teach an image storing means comprising a storing medium removable mounted to said apparatus in the system of Kanno and Maniwa as taught by Murata. Kanno and Maniwa system includes an external unit such as personal computer for printing or image processing (note Kanno col. 5 lines 34-36). Murata in the same field of endeavor teaches removably medium installed in photocopying machine. This provides offline printing.

Regarding apparatus claims 19, 23 and 25 Kanno, Maniwa and Murata discloses,

Wherein said method is stored in a computer program to be executed by said computer (note Kanno col. 10 lines 1-3, Rom stores the control program).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-11 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 3, 6 and 9, prior art fails to disclose generating third management information representative of a list of image files stored in said storing means, in combination with limitations of the first and second managing means. Remaining claims 4-5, 7-8 and 10-11 are dependent upon the above objected claims therefore are also objected.

Regarding claim 14 prior art fails to disclose internal storing means, storing first second and third management information until storing medium has been removed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory M. Desire whose telephone number is (703) 308-9586. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) Second Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

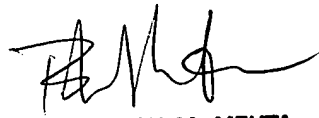
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Gregory M. Desire
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

G.D.
November 19, 2003



BHAVESH M. MEHTA
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